

WILD ABOUT TRAVEL - INDIA

South India mammals, birds and general natural history tour Best time to visit Nov - Jan



Indian Giant Squirrel © J Geeson



Nilgiri Langur © R Bee



Paris Peacock



Indian Blue Robin © M O'Dell



Green Forest Lizard © C Simpson

14 days Bangalore – Mysore – Nagarhole – Mudumalai – Ooty – Topslip – Chinnar – Munnar – Thattekkad – Cochin (Kochi)

A tour with a focus on mammals, including several endemic species with a restricted range and also taking in an amazing diversity of birds, butterflies and reptiles. Journey through the plains and up through the Western Ghat mountains ending in the diverse tropical forests around Thattekkad in Kerala. This tour is perfect for anyone with a passion for natural history.

Mammals include: Lion-tailed Macaque, Nilgiri Langur, Nilgiri Tahr, Bonnet Macaque, Asian Elephant, Gaur (Indian Bison), Ruddy Mongoose, Grizzled Giant Squirrel and Indian Giant Squirrel. Tiger, Leopard and Sloth Bear are possible, but difficult. **Endemic birds include:** Black and Orange Flycatcher, White-bellied Treepie, Malabar Grey Hornbill, Crimson-backed (Small) Sunbird, Malabar Parakeet, Crimson-fronted (Malabar) Barbet, Pompadour (Grey-fronted) Green Pigeon. Other classic birds: Indian Pitta, Ceylon Frogmouth, Malabar Trogon, Heart-spotted Woodpecker, White-bellied Woodpecker and Mottled Wood Owl all possible.

Day 1: Flight (excluded, but easily booked via the internet)

Day 2: Bangalore – Mysore

You will be welcomed at Bangalore airport by your nature guide. If time permits take short boat trip at Ranganathittu Sanctuary for close up views of Marsh Crocodile, Turtles, Fruit Bats and the wonderful breeding colonies of Painted and Open-billed Storks, Egrets and scarce Spot-billed Pelicans. Continue the drive to Mysore. Night at local hotel. Meals payable directly this day.

Day 3: Mysore – Nagarhole

After breakfast drive (2 hrs) to Nagarhole stopping to birdwatch on the way. Enjoy an afternoon jeep safari in Nagarhole National Park (NP), home to many species of mammal. Likely species include Asian Elephant, Sambar deer, Spotted Deer, Wild Boar, Gaur (Indian Bison), Malabar Giant Squirrel and Bonnet Macaque. Main predators include Tiger, Leopard and Dhole (Wild Dog), but these are tricky to see. Night at safari lodge. (B) (L) (D).

Day 4: Nagarhole

Enjoy a full day inside the park with a morning safari and afternoon boat trip with a walk around the lodge grounds in between. Expect to see many birds including brightly coloured Blue-tailed Bee-eaters, Minivets, Sunbirds, Woodpeckers, Grey Junglefowl and White-cheeked Barbet. Mottled Wood Owl, Brown Fish Owl and Grey-headed Fish Eagle are possible. 2nd night at lodge. (B) (L) (D).

Day 5: Nagarhole – Ooty

Departing for Ooty (4 hrs) birdwatching along the way. Night at local hotel. (B) (D).

Day 6: Ooty

Spend the day looking for some classic endemic species of the Western Ghats including Nilgiri Langur and many bird species - Black and Orange Flycatcher, Nilgiri Blue Robin, Nilgiri Laughing-thrush. Spend a 2nd night at local hotel. (B) (D)

Day 7: Ooty – Topslip area

An early start is needed to drive the 4 - 5 hrs to explore the Topslip area. Check in at local lodge then later in the afternoon you will visit the edge of the National Park for birdwatching. Species should include Jerdon's Nightjar and hopefully return to twinkling fireflies. Night at local lodge. (B or packed B) (L) (D).

Day 8: Topslip area

Priority today will be looking for Lion-tailed Macaque – a scarce and endemic primate. It is likely your guide will try a location outside of the local National Park. Return to safari Lodge for the night. (B) (L) (D).

Day 9: Topslip – Chinnar – Munnar

Leave after an early breakfast for the 2 hr drive to Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary to look for the rare Grizzled Giant Squirrel and Spot-bellied Eagle Owl. Continue to Munnar (2 hrs). Check in to hotel and explore locally for remainder of the day. (B) (D)

Day 10: Munnar

On this day visit Rajamalai NP to look for Nilgiri Tahr and various endemic birds. Night at local hotel. (B) (L) (D)

Day 11: Munnar – Thattekkad

Drive on to Thattekkad. Locally you can see Indian Pitta, Red Spurfowl, Malabar Grey Hornbill.... Night at local lodge. (B) (L) (D).

Day 12 & 13: Thattekkad area

You will visit Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary and local sites. Species include Ceylon Frogmouth, Malabar Trogon, White-bellied Woodpecker and Black Baza, plus plenty of butterflies. Night at lodge. (B) (L) (D).

Day 14: Thattekkad – Cochin (Kochi)

You will be transferred to Cochin (2 hrs max.) to catch your flight home. (B) **Tours ends Extensions available – please ask for details.**

Price per person (Valid till 1 October 2011) on twin-share basis for two travelling: £1450 / four travelling: £1285.

Single room supplement: £455. Please note that the booking of this itinerary is with Asian Adventures and their booking terms and conditions apply.

Price includes:

All land transport inc. jeep drives in National Parks, Accommodation and meals as specified (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner), Experienced nature guide
2 jeep safaris and 1 boat trip at Nagarhole
Bird and mammal checklist and pre-travel information

Price excludes:

Flights, tourist visa, travel insurance
Some meals
National Park and Bird Sanctuary entrance fees except for Nagarhole.
Camera or Camcorder fees if charged as extra.
Drinks inc. bottled water, tips, laundry, phone calls and anything of a personal nature.

Call or email Wild About Travel. Tel: +44 (0)1480 370593 Mobile: +44 (0)7817 574235

Email: jo@wildabouttravel.co.uk

Visit: www.wildabouttravel.co.uk



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Registered Office: 25 Sapley Road, Hartford, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE29 1YG, UK, Cambridgeshire, PE29 1YG, UK